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Dr. Larry G. Hart
Executive Secretary
Report on Carcinogens
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

FAX: 919/541-2242

Dear Dr. Hart:

As a breast cancer advocate, and a person who is also a breast cancer survivor, I am writing you with grave concerns about the review that is to occur for tamoxifen as a human carcinogen through the National Toxicology Program.

I am truly concerned about the lives of breast cancer patients, as I know that this drug has helped many live longer and more fruitful lives. With its long standing record of safe usage, I think it would be tragic to remove tamoxifen from the market place. It would take away hope and support from too many women and their families who are looking forward to having a higher quality of life. There are very few drugs on the market today that can give a woman the confidence that her lifespan could possibly be extended, particularly if her disease is beyond stage 1 or stage 2.

I have always felt that the management of Zeneca has held great concern for the safety and efficacy of this drug. To my knowledge, they have spent a great deal of time and energy researching it and openly discussing side effects and the potential for increased uterine cancer. However, for many breast cancer patients with whom I have been acquainted over the years, the increased risk of developing uterine cancer is outweighed by the benefits of tamoxifen. For this reason it is understandable why physicians and other healthcare providers would help women make the choice to continue to remain on tamoxifen. Breast cancer is a more prevalent and more fatal disease than uterine cancer. Neither is a good option, thus patients should be allowed to determine which risks they prefer to take.

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I am quite concerned as a breast cancer survivor and as one who has been very involved in the breast cancer movement, that to overstate the possible side effects through the toxicology program, could end up depriving women of the known benefits of tamoxifen. In light of the fact that we do not yet know how to prevent or cure breast cancer, this places women in a very gray and frightening situation. As one who every day deals with patients who are caught in the nexus of doubt and fear, I hold great concern for all patients and their families.

In closing I want to disclose that I have had a professional relationship with Zeneca over the last several years. I served as a consultant for their Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities. However, when I learned that tamoxifen was once again being examined, I wanted to write this letter on a very personal level, not representing anyone other than myself. Zeneca has made an effort to boost the concerns of breast cancer patients through their Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities, and I for one am very grateful for all they have been able to accomplish, along with the breast cancer community. I hope that tamoxifen will get a fair and unbiased hearing in the discussions as they go forward.

Sincerely,



Nancy G. Brinker

NGB/dl